

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 NSC-07 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /108 W

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R 151207Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5902

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, CZ, US

SUBJECT: CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS

1. CHARGE WAS CALLED IN MARCH 14 BY MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ZANTOVSKY FOR DISCUSSION DURING WHICH LATTER RAISED QUESTION OF EXTENSION OF CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT. ZANTOVSKY FOR FIRST TIME NOTED THAT AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN MAY, AND SPOKE OF NEED TO EXTEND IT. IN DESCRIBING STATE OF AIRLINE OPERATIONS, HE SAID THAT CSA OFFICIALS HAD TOLD HIM THAT PAA TRAFFIC HAD INCREASED SINCE LAST RENEWAL, AND THAT CSA FELT IT HAD SUFFERED FROM INABILITY TO SELL DIRECTLY IN US.
  2. CHARGE REPLIED THAT PAA WAS FAR FROM SATISFIED WITH ITS SITUATION, AND REVIEWED BARRIERS WHICH EXISTED TO PAA'S SALES ACTIVITIES HERE. ZANTOVSKY ASSERTED THAT PAA WAS ENTITLED TO FAIR SHARE OF MARKET AND THAT "IN PRESENT BETTER ATMOSPHER OF OUR RELATIONS" SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE BY CZECHS TO IMPORVE ITS SITUATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT PAA PRAGUE REPRESENTATIVE SPEAK WITH CZECHS WITH VIEW TOWARD DEALING WITH HIS PROBLEMS.
  3. ZANTOVSKY THEN SUGGESTED THAT EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT MIGHT COME IN TWO STAGES. FIRST, US TECHNICAL EXPERTS WOULD COME TO PRAGUE TO DISCUSS STATE OF ACTIVITIES UNDER AGREEMENT
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AND AGREE ON POSSIBLE PROTOCOL. THEN AGREEMENT WOULD BE

EXTENDED BY EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES. HE AGAIN, IN SUMMARY, IMPLIED THAT CZECHS WOULD EXPECT TO IMPROVE PAA'S OPERATING SITUATION HERE, AND WOULD THEMSELVES SEEK CHANGE WHICH WOULD PERMIT DIRECT SALES IN US.

4. CHARGE THROUGHOUT EMPHASIZED THAT CZECH RECORD OF IMPLEMENTATION WAS NOT GOOD AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH ANY EXTENSION. HE ASKED IF CZECHS HAD STRONG PREFERENCE FOR TALKS IN PRAGUE, TO WHICH ZANTOVSKY REPLIED THAT, SINCE 1972 TALKS WERE IN WASHINGTON, NEXT ROUND SHOULD BE IN PRAGUE.

5. WE HAVE NO WAY OF ESTIMATING HOW HARD CZECHS PLAN TO PUSH FOR CHANGES IN THEIR AGENCY AGREEMENT IN US. CERTAINLY THEY FULLY EXPECT TO EXTEND AGREEMENT, AND SEE EXTENSION AS STEP IN CURRENT STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS. ZANTOVSKY REMARKED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SINCE MFN-RELATED IMPROVEMENT IN TRADE MAY NOT BE IMMEDIATE OFFING, CIVIL AVIATION WAS NATURAL AREA FOR DEMONSTRATING TREND IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. HIS PROPOSAL FOR TWO-PHASE EXTENSION, INCIDENTALLY, SEEMED DESIGNED TO CREATE BASIS FOR DIPLOMATIC CEREMONY, POSSIBLY RELATED TO OFFICIAL VISIT IN EITHER DIRECTION (ON WHICH WE WILL REPORT SEPARATELY).

6. WE WILL ADVISE PAA REPRESENTATIVE TO RESTATE HIS COMPLAINTS TO CZECH AIRLINE AND/OR CIVIL AVIATION OFFICIALS AND INFORM US OF THEIR REACTION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS ON BASIS OF WHICH WE MAY REPLY TO ZANTOVSKY PROPOSAL. WORTZEL

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